

REMARKS

The Office Action of April 7, 2004 finally rejects claims 1 through 4 for obviousness on the basis of the Hunt and Garback references, and further in view of the Tagawa reference. For the reasons discussed below, however, it is respectfully submitted the cited references, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest the specific arrangement of the invention defined by the rejected claims.

With reference to Figure 1 of the present application's drawings, the application discloses an arrangement in which a ticket booking is performed between a personal computer (PC 30) and a selected reservation system (10), and not between a local computer (net server 21) and the reservation system (10). The arrangement disclosed in the application will be described in the following sections (i) through (iii):

(i) The personal computer (PC 30) receives the URL of a reservation system from the local computer (21).

Claim 1 recites the steps of "addressing a ticket booking commencement request to said local computer from said personal computer" and "sending information relating to said reservation system and address information of said reservation system from said local computer to said personal computer via said network in accordance with said ticket booking commencement request." As is described in the disclosure of the present application, the personal computer (PC 30) receives from the local computer (21) information including the Internet address (i.e., the URL) of the reservation system (see the paragraph at page 10 of the application, lines 14-23).

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

09/458,820

- 2 -

(ii) The personal computer (PC 30) interacts with the reservation system for performing a booking.

The personal computer (PC 30) then uses the URL to access to the reservation system (for example, an airline reservation system) to make a ticket booking. In this regard, claim 1 recites the steps of "connecting said personal computer to the selected reservation system via the Internet" and "transmitting and receiving information data including a booking number without the aid of said local computer via Internet between said personal computer and the selected reservation system." The booking steps are described in the application from page 11, line 7 to page 12, line 3.

(iii) The personal computer (PC 30) sends the booking data to the local computer (21).

The personal computer (PC 30) generates booking data received from the reservation system and sends the booking data to the local computer (21). In this regard, claim 1 recites the step of "generating, in said personal computer, booking data by compiling ... and sending the booking data to said local computer via said network."

* * * * *

As described above in sections (i) – (iii), the personal computer (PC 30) directly interacts with the reservation system to perform booking by accessing the website of the reservation system. The local computer does not need to be involved in the booking process. Stated in another way, the personal computer can utilize the function or facility (i.e., an external server) of a reservation system provided by, for example, an airline company, or hotel etc. Since the website is provided on the external server, there is no need of providing, on the local computer, a function or a capability such as booking processing software or a booking management

application for interacting with various external reservation systems. Thus, the configuration of the booking system (i.e., the local computer and the PC) can be simplified. The invention as claimed in independent claims 1 and 2 is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited references.

It is noted that the prior Office Action commented, at the middle of page 5, that "Although Hunt discloses ..., Hunt fails to explicitly disclose without the aid of said local computer" and that "Tagawa teaches transmitting and receiving ... without the aid of said local computer." However, the Hunt reference states (at column 2, lines 16-20) that

"A client computer generates a command in response to input from a user. A server computer receives the command through an application program interface (API) and generates a request to a computer reservation system in response to the command."

That is, a server computer (i.e., corresponds to the local computer of the present application) interacts with the reservation system for making a reservation.

The Tagawa reference mentions a step "of initiating two-way communication between a user and the system..." (column 6, lines 19-20). However, the user of Tagawa's self-service system makes a booking using an input display provided by the self-service system. The user does not directly input data on a display of a reservation system (CRS).

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Allen Wood - Reg. No. 28,134
RABIN & BERDO, P.C.
Telephone: 202-371-8976
Telefax: 202-408-0924
CUSTOMER NO. 23995

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION

09/458,820

- 4 -